

President's Corner

by Lynn Kotler, *CRDC President*

Summer is finally here! For me, this time of year gives me the time to catch up on reading the twenty plus books I've collected over the course of the year, catch some waves on my surfboard and get together with family and friends for barbeques.

But before I switch to summer mode, I want to tell you about an email I recently received from a friend. She wanted my thoughts on Hillary followers supporting McCain. She quoted slogans such as "Hillary 4 McCain" and "Nobama." My friend said that she would vote for John McCain out of spite and because her candidate, Hillary, was not the nominee.

My immediate reaction was: you've got to be kidding! I searched the Internet only to learn that there are blogs, YouTube snippets and websites devoted to this very way of thinking.

In fact, Carly Fiorina, the former Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett Packard and most recently named the Victory Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee and a staunch supporter of John McCain, recently met with a group of female Democratic Hillary supporters formed to protest the injustice done to Hillary Clinton during the campaign. Ms. Fiorina's message to this group of women was that women in positions of authority and power are being treated differently and are being held to a different standard. Ms. Fiorina was appealing to this group in an effort to get them to vote for McCain.



Club Pres. Lynn Kotler, St. Senator Tom Duane, Bob Trentlyon at the CRDC BBQ

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 17 • 7:00 P.M.

Hudson Guild, 441 West 26th Street
(btw. 9th & 10th Aves.)

AGENDA:

Guest Speaker:

Scott Stringer

Manhattan Borough President

"State of the Borough Update"

Also:

Members of the Obama leadership team will address the club concerning their plans for New York and how the club can help.

An endorsement vote will be taken at the meeting to endorse for President of the United States

Please Note: CRDC will not have an August general meeting. We wish all an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing everyone at our September Meeting.

Are we buying into this rhetoric, or are we going to join together as Democrats? This is a Republican strategy targeted at Hillary supporters to lure votes away from Obama. It is time for Democrats to act in solidarity. A club member stated that while she did not support Barack Obama on many issues, she would *never* (emphasis added) vote for John McCain.

Before we pull that lever in the voting booth, consider the potential consequences of electing a Bush clone. Think of the United States Supreme Court: Justice John Paul Stevens is 87 years old. We might guess that his plan is to wait for this country to elect a Democratic president so that he can

continued on page 2

President's Corner — continued from page 1

retire. Our already diminished privacy rights will be further eroded and the war in Iraq will continue with no end in sight.

Before I bid you a fun-filled summer, I would like to thank the following individuals who made our annual BBQ at Fulton House Garden on June 1st a success: Doris Corrigan, Paul Groncki, Tim Gay, Linda Longstreet, Elyse Roberts, Paul Goetz, Tom Schuler and Luke McAuliffe.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our July 17 meeting.

The Rent 'Gouging' Board Targets The Poor Once More

By Gloria Sukenick, Chair, CRDC Housing Committee

On Thursday June 19th, the Rent Guideline Board met to decide how much money to transfer from rent-stabilized tenants' pockets to landlords' (well supplied) pockets.

Once again, that biased board targeted exactly the most vulnerable tenants: those living 6 or more years in rent stabilized apartments and paying under \$1000 per month. That is now considered "low" rent! For a one-year lease, the increase is \$45 per month, \$85 for a two year lease or 4.5% for a one-year lease and 8.5% for a two-year lease, whichever is higher. For all other stabilized tenants increases are 4.5% for one year and 8.5% for two year leases!

The RGB's own staff's detailed reports on rental housing in NYC confirmed what we all know: landlords' profits are — and have been — consistently healthy but the

RGB has approved increases for landlords even when their costs have gone down!

This is the sort of move that penalizes long-time residents who create a neighborhood and provide stability and community. This is not surprising as we have



Chef Paul Groncki, taking orders

a Board that consists of 2 landlord representatives, 2 tenant representatives and five "public" members who tend to come from business, financial and real estate backgrounds and who all tend to be pro-landlord. This is the kind of Board that has got to go!

So, despite a huge tenant turnout, once again those who can least afford it take a big hit. And despite the rumors circulated by property owners that many of these rent stabilized apartments are occupied by high income tenants, facts show otherwise. Most of these tenants are paying over 30% of their income for housing. And 30% of \$32,000 (the median rent stabilized household income in NYC) doesn't leave much for a family's expenses, particularly in NYC.

So folks, action by all of us is essential. Get involved and make your voices heard loud and clear. CHANGE IS NEEDED!

More next time... Keep Fighting

Hillary Is A Winner!

by Mary Dorman, District Leader, 75 AD

CRDC endorsed Senator Clinton as its choice for the Democratic Party Presidential Candidate very early in the race. I had my reservations about her for reasons often cited by many: she had voted in favor of the war in Iraq and had never spoken out against it; was silent on the issue of impeachment; never endorsed same sex marriages (only civil unions) and was the first Democrat to break the boycott of the LGBT community by Marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. But finally, a two term competent Senator and a woman with a good shot at the highest office in the land!

And, I might add, I believed that Senator Obama lacked the requisite experience both in electoral politics and government, an attribute many saw as a plus. I was also convinced that Hillary could run the Oval Office from day one and Barack would require a lot of startup time that

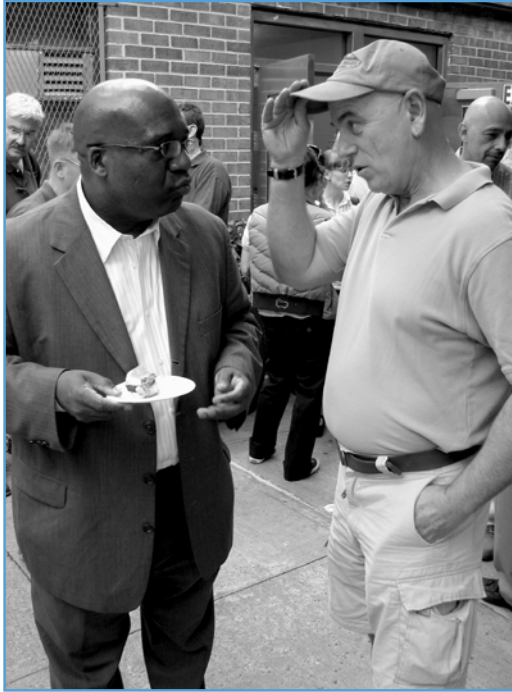


Wendi Paster and family

*continued on
page 5*

BBQ Was A Great Success!

Pictures in newsletter are from our very successful BBQ. Unfortunately space does not allow us to print all of them. The club thanks member Jon Nalley for taking them.



Judge Tingling and Tim Gay



Steve Kolodny and others



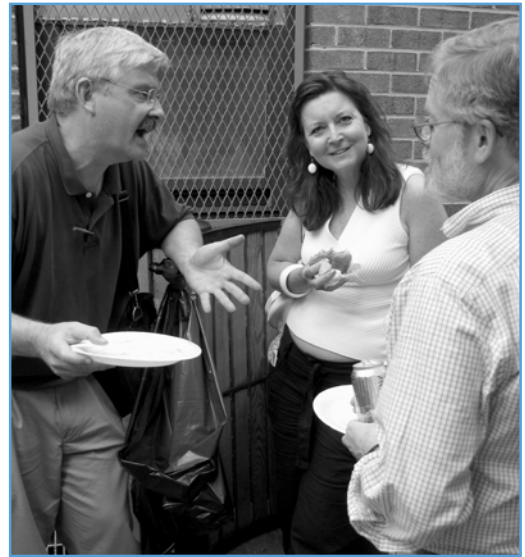
Assemblymember Dick Gottfried and VID member Carol Fineman



Tom, Tim, Stuart, Luke and others



Martha Seymour and Judge Cynthia Kern



Andy Humm, making a point



Joanna Saccone's back (!) and City Council Member Jessica Lappen & Son



Tom Duane greeting at the door



Andrew Berman, Norman Seigel and Judy Richheimer



"Now, this is how it is!"

Hillary is a Winner — continued from page 2

this nation, at this point, simply can't spare.

I wrote an article in an earlier newsletter about the battering Hillary took at the hands of the media. From playing and replaying the TV loop of her quivering lower lip and a tear drop or two, after her endless campaigning, bearing the brunt of media assaults, wins and losses to a running comment on what she was wearing and the size of her ankles, the media was relentless and brutal.

In spite of the bludgeoning sexism, Hillary never once bowed her head in submission or defeat. Even when the super delegates began to turn from her one by one, she fought on. Even when the Democratic pundits predicted failure and urged her to quit the race, she did not. She campaigned even harder, right down to the wire. Hillary should be applauded for it.

Hillary Clinton was largely supported by middle aged and older women. She represented to us the possibility of something we never thought we would see in our lifetime: a woman president of the United States. This in a time when there is no Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution and, while women comprise 54% of the U.S. population, they hold only 16 of 100 U.S. Senate seats and 71 of 435 U.S. House seats.

Women do not have equal rights under the highest law of the land. And neither do women in New York State! Law is reflective of social change and surely, if the United States could have a woman President, then surely a change in the law would follow and women would be equals in these United States.

I believe that Hillary, as president, would bring a different sensibility to the White House: health care, not war; green power, not oil; detente, not confrontation; inclusivity, not privilege. Perhaps Barack has similar sensibilities. One can hope.

Even though Hillary got the most of the popular vote, she didn't get the nomination. But she is a person of pride and stature and grace and now is campaigning with Barack to ensure the Democrats once again lead the government. Once again I will join her.



Girl talk at the BBQ



Club members Bob, Luke, Estelle and Mercedes

Sail with Chelsea Waterside Park Association on the Sloop Clearwater

Wednesday, July 23

Boarding time is 5:30pm

Sloop sails promptly at 6:00pm for a 3-hour sail. Members \$45 Others \$50 (includes a box supper)

For further information and to reserve call Pamela at 212-255-8443.

LGBT HIV/AIDS Committee

The LGBT and HIV/AIDS Committee of CRDC along with LeGal (the gay and lesbian bar association) and GLID (Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats) are planning a symposium on LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues in the Middle East. If you would like to join the Committee and/or work on the symposium, please contact CRDC Executive Committee member, Paul Goetz at pagoetz1@gmail.com.

PO Box 1120
Old Chelsea Station
New York City, NY 10113-1120

Chelsea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill



In This Issue...

President's Corner

by Lynn Kotler, CRDC President

The Rent "Gouging" Board Targets the Poor Once More

*By Gloria Sukenick, Chair,
CRDC Housing Committee*

Hillary is a Winner!

By Mary Dorman, District Leader, 75 AD

Photos from CRDC Barbeque

Thanks to all for a great party

Sail with Chelsea Waterside Park Association on the Sloop Clearwater

Wednesday, July 23, boarding time 5:30 pm

LGBT HIV/AIDS Committee

*planning a symposium on LGBT and
HIV/AIDS issues in the Middle East.*

Join CRDC Today!

It is never too late to pay your 2008 dues, and remain a member of CRDC, New York City's most progressive Democratic Club. Please fill out the coupon below and mail to our postal box or renew by going to our website www.crdcnyc.org.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day): _____

(Evening): _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual \$40 H'Hold \$50 Patrons

\$10 Ltd. Income \$15 H'Hold Limited Income

Make checks payable to CRDC and mail to:
PO Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station
New York City, NY 10113-1120

Questions? Call 212-924-5433, email us at info@crdcnyc.org, or visit our website at www.crdcnyc.org